

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7418

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002

FACILITIES TO TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS IN RURAL AREAS

ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the facilities provided by the Government to the telephone subscribers of the rural areas for ensuring cash payment of their telephone bills ;
- (b) whether the cheques for the payment of telephone bills are not accepted by local post offices in the rural areas;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the acceptance of cheques by the post offices in the rural areas;
- (e) whether the permission from some Government Authority is required for the payment of such cheques; and
- (f) if so, the details including the exact procedure for the same in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): The Government no longer provides the telephone service to subscribers. In the case of public sector companies, such as Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, they have intimated that the payment of telephone bills both in cash and cheque is accepted in departmental post offices, including in certain selected branch post offices in the rural areas now.

(c) to (f): Do not arise in view of reply to (a) & (b) above.